
NEWS RELEASE

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GREGG SAYS CENTER FOR EDUCATION POLICY REPORT RELIES ON DEFENDERS OF THE STATUS QUO

WASHINGTON—A year ago, President Bush signed into law the No Child Left Behind Act, which contained the most significant elementary and secondary education reforms in the last 35 years. For too long public school bureaucracies have received federal monies without accountability for results.

The new law coupled historic increases in funding with reforms designed to improve academic achievement for all children and change the culture of American education to focus first on the needs of parents and children instead of school bureaucracies. The federal funding increase tied to the No Child Left Behind Act, \$4.7 billion last year alone, represents a 27 percent increase—the largest in history. Much of the funding was just made available to States this past summer and fall for the 2002-03 school year. As a result, school districts are just now starting to benefit from this historic increase.

“It’s simply disingenuous to suggest that the federal government is under-funding education,” said Senator Gregg, incoming Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. “We know that last year’s funding increases for education tied to the No Child Left Behind Act were the largest in history. Over the last five years, federal funding for education has increased two times faster than the rate of growth of all federal spending, faster than support for health and social services programs and nearly three times faster than the defense budget.

“The No Child Left Behind Act was overwhelming approved in bipartisan fashion by the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. We all agreed that school reform must focus on results. We must ask, ‘are students learning?’ Unfortunately, it appears that the Center for Education Policy relied on input from those who would first ask, ‘how much money do I get?’--defenders of the status quo.”

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